

The War Fifty Years Ago

The Confederate Forces In the West Gather For Battle at Corinth, Miss.—General Albert Sidney Johnston and General P. G. T. Beauregard In Command. Johnston's Plan of Campaign—General U. S. Grant, With a Federal Force, Under Orders to Attack Corinth—First American Balloon Reconnaissance Above the Firing Line—Aeronaut and Two Federal Officers Ascend 500 Feet at the Siege of Island No. 10—New Life in the Ram Merrimac.

By Captain GEORGE L. KILMER, Lt. U. S. V.

FIFTY years ago, March 25, General Albert Sidney Johnston and General P. G. T. Beauregard were concentrating large Confederate forces at Corinth, Miss. General U. S. Grant had been ordered to attack Corinth, and a heavy battle in that vicinity was expected. Grant's victory at Fort Donelson, Tenn., in February, 1862, pushed the war in the west rapidly to a crisis. Mutual interest led the opposing armies to aim for Corinth, Miss. The Confederates had for months been attempting to keep up a line along the border of Tennessee and Kentucky too extensive for the force they had in the field. General Albert Sidney Johnston, the southern leader, had long seen the folly of it from a military point of view and the moment the line was broken by reverses at Fort Henry and Donelson drew his army back to a shorter line.

When the citizens of Tennessee saw the Confederate army vanishing from the border and the country given up to the Yankees they turned against Johnston and demanded of President Davis that he be removed. Davis promptly answered, "If Johnston is no general we have none and may as well stop the war right where it is." He didn't

Grant in a second chance. Halleck thought better of his action, and Grant was restored to command on the 17th of March, when the larger part of the army was encamped along the Tennessee about twenty miles from Corinth.

Johnston's Bold Plan of Battle.

Johnston had scored the first point in the game to be played in front of Corinth by uniting his own troops, which had eluded the enemy in getting out of Tennessee, with the Mississippi army under Beauregard. He could whip any single army the Federals had in the field at the time this union took place. The question to be solved was how to get at the enemy's scattered troops and smash them in detail. This question Halleck had made easy by rushing Smith's column forward toward Corinth while the supporting column under General Don Carlos Buell was following forward in the same direction from its camps in central Tennessee.

When Grant reached the front at Savannah, Tenn., thirty-two miles from Corinth, on the Tennessee river, the troops at hand consisted of the Army of the Tennessee. There were five divisions, led by Lew Wallace, W. H. L. Wallace, W. T. Sherman, W. H. Hurlburt and J. A. McClelland. It was this army that Johnston hoped to smash be-

west. With his outfit he reached the headquarters of Colonel N. B. Buford, commander of the Federal troops nearest the besieged island on March 23. The weather was foggy for two days, but he ascended on the 25th, having in the basket with him Colonel Buford and Captain H. E. Maynadier, the officer in charge of the mortar boats. The scene which these balloon scouts looked down upon was both picturesque and thrilling.

Within a radius of eight miles from the island the Mississippi crosses the boundary line of Kentucky and Tennessee three times, running on almost every point of the compass. On the bluffs a chain of forts had been built extending for four miles along the crescent formed shore. Back of these the tents of the infantry formed a long strip of white on the brown earth. And there lay the island in the lower corner of the crescent, with the side fronting the Missouri shore lined with Confederate ordnance, so trained that with the artillery on the opposite shore almost every point on the river between the island and the Missouri bank could be reached at once by all the enemy's batteries.

Above the Firing Line.

While Captain Steiner piloted the machine Colonel Buford studied as best he could in the variable mists prevailing the location of the strongest Confederate land defenses. Captain Maynadier riveted his attention upon the 200 pound shells which the mortar boats continued throwing, while the balloon arose to the height of 500 feet and discovered that they nearly always passed far over the target before they dropped or burst, so that the execution by this method was not worth the powder. A mortar shell is hoisted into the air by its charge and is intended to drop almost vertically from a great height and explode while falling. Owing to an imperfect elevation of the muzzles of the mortars and too heavy charges of powder the shells overshot the mark. This error was promptly remedied by the gunners, and next day Captain Maynadier again took observations



© by the Review of Reviews company.

A FEDERAL ARMY BALLOON CAMP AT THE FRONT IN 1862

remore him. Months before the issue was tried out on the border Johnston had figured out the probabilities.

He studied the lay of the land and, placing his finger upon Corinth, said, "Here a decisive battle will be fought."

"On to Corinth!"

As soon, then, as battle reverses warranted a backward step Johnston said "On to Corinth!" and the Federal armies, elated by the triumph at Donelson, took up the watchword "Forward to Corinth!" Corinth was nothing in itself—simply a railroad junction. But the railroads tapped the east and south, making rail communications from the Mississippi to the Atlantic seaboard and from the Gulf to the Ohio river. A Confederate army patrolled Mississippi, ready to rally upon any threatened point. To move that force north and try to save Tennessee would be to leave Corinth exposed on the west and south. Johnston chose to abandon Tennessee, concentrate at Corinth and, after defeating the Federal armies in that region, try to recover the lost ground.

Grant was on the shelf when Johnston started by a roundabout road to march his troops out of Tennessee into Mississippi. He had been weighed in the balances of General Halleck, his immediate superior, and found wanting. Relieved of command, he waited for a second chance. General C. F. Smith, the hero of the decisive charge at Donelson, had been placed in command of the troops in the field, and every regiment and battery in Kentucky and Tennessee was marching south, up Tennessee river, in the direction of Corinth. Grant said that he would serve under Smith as readily and as faithfully as Smith had served under him. He had a high opinion of Smith's abilities and confessed that he thought they might be greater than his own. Smith was a character in the army. It was of him that Sherman made the remark, "Had Smith lived Grant would never have been heard of after Donelson." But Smith's death was not needed to make way for

fore the Army of the Ohio, 40,000 strong, could reach the battlefield.

Johnston's anxiety about the Federals using gunboats on the rivers to support the marching of land troops was not without reason. About March 1 Beauregard had sent a battery to take position on high ground overlooking Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee river nine miles above Savannah and twenty-three miles from Corinth. Two Federal gunboats, the Tyler and the Lexington, which had been with Grant at Fort Henry, steamed up one day and drove the battery away. The boats then patrolled the river, and Grant's first step on reaching Savannah was to order the Army of the Tennessee to Pittsburg Landing. He did not move his own headquarters there, but remained at Savannah, awaiting the arrival of Buell.

A Balloon Scout.

The last week in March, 1862, witnessed an occurrence on the scene of hostilities then unparalleled in war in America. This was a balloon reconnaissance in the fighting zone at Island No. 10, in the Mississippi river.

After the Confederate evacuation of New Madrid on March 14, which General John Pope had forced by blockading the river twelve miles below, the Confederate forces occupied their fortified positions on Island No. 10 and the eastern shore of the Mississippi, where they were cut off by impassable swamps on the land side. The only way open for them to obtain supplies or to effect a retreat was by the river south of Island No. 10. Pope, with an army of 20,000 men, was on the western side of the river below the island. It was his intention to cross the river and attack from below, but he could not safely do this without the aid of a gunboat to silence the enemy's batteries opposite and protect his army in crossing.

Evidently things were at a deadlock. About this time the Federal government had secured the services of John Steiner, an aeronaut of repute, to operate with the balloon Eagle in the

from the sky and saw that the shells dropped in the Confederate works. However, the net result of the balloon reconnaissance was to convince both the army and the navy that the reduction of the Confederate works by mortar shells alone would be a tedious process.

General Pope urged Flag Officer Foote to send down a gunboat past the enemy's batteries on the island at night. A council of naval officers held on the 28th decided against the hazardous undertaking, but Commander Henry Walke declared that he was willing to make the attempt in the ironclad Carondelet. Consent was given on the 30th, and the ship prepared for the ordeal. The activities of the Federal gunboat flotilla were at this stage the subject for joking among army officers, one of whom remarked that the navy was chiefly occupied in "bombarding the whole state of Tennessee at long range." The balloon Eagle was part of the equipment of the balloon corps of the Army of the Potomac which Professor T. S. C. Lowe had organized. It was taken west at the request of Flag Officer Foote.

Other Events of the Week.

March 20 a heavy skirmish ending in a draw was fought at Apache canyon, New Mexico, between Colonel J. P. Slough's Federal cavalry and a force of mounted Texans.

A second battle between Eriessons Monitor and the Confederate ram Virginia, or Merrimac, in Hampton Roads was expected. Captain Josiah Hall, noted for his services in the old United States navy, had been appointed commander of the ram.

March 20 President Davis sent a message to congress at Richmond recommending conscription of all citizens of the Confederate States between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five for military service. Union City, Tenn., an important point on the Mobile and Ohio railroad and the future line of army operations, was seized by Federal cavalry.

THE OXFORD SEASON IS HERE.



We have a
Complete Stock
Including all the
Latest Styles in
Many Pretty
Patterns.



THEY ARE PETERS "DIAMOND BRAND," made over specially designed lasts that give them Individuality and Style. Every pair is carefully made by Expert Shoe Workers from Select Stock, Solid Leather through and through and will give Good Wear as well as present a pleasing appearance.

We are prepared to fit every member of your family and can save you money on your Shoe bill

THE FITTS-BUNKER MER. CO.,

OREGON, MISSOURI.

COME TO US FOR YOUR SHOES.

REAL ESTATE MIMEOGRAPH

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY W. H. RICHARDS, OREGON, MO. OFFICE UPSTAIRS IN THE MODOER BLOCK

Abstracter and Negotiator of Loans.

Transfers for week ending June 15, 1912:

WARRANTY DEEDS.

Roy C Kunkel to Daniel Kunkel, lot 3, block 7, Western Add, Oregon.....\$650
W S Vandeventer to F T Vandeventer, lands in 6, 61, 38..... 500
Bertha Wakely et al to Marion Archer, lots 23, 24, block 4, Add Maitland..... 140
Rebecca Pullen et al to C B & Q R R Co, tract in 29, 50, 37..... 500

Transfers for week ending June 8, 1912:

WARRANTY DEEDS.

Nancy E Haines to Phoebe Shields, 1 ne, lot 1, 35, 62, 37.....\$ 800 00
Thos C Sheppard to Laura Miles, s 1 lot 17, block 21, M'd C's Ext Co's Add..... 100 00
Emma Guiliams to William Cannon, lots 11, 14, 15, block 2, G & C Add, Craig..... 800 00
Maria L Denny to Bertha N Thompson, lots 1, 4, block 1, Mount City..... 2,100 00

Wm L Catron to Richard W Graham, lots 12, 13, block 18, Channing's Add, Bigelow 1,175 00

Jennie M Watson et al to W S Hodgins, e 1 lots 1, 4, n 4 lot 5, block 9, Oregon..... 3,500 00

Carrie Roberts et al to John Hsiey, w 1 se 1 ne 4 27, 63, 40..... 1,400 00

Marion R Archer et al to Marion Archer, lots 23, 24, block 4, Add Maitland..... 140 00

ADMINISTRATOR'S DEED.

Reuben L Carson to Robert A Kunkel, 34 acres in ne 1, 7, 60, 38..... 2,242 50

GUARDIAN'S DEED.

Virgie A Jackson, by Gdm, to Henry T Floyd, tract in sw 1, 36, 61, 37..... 1,800 00

QUIT-CLAIM DEEDS.

Jonas A Kretzer to C A Kellogg, lots 9, 12, block 1, G & C Add, Craig..... 1 00

Jonathan Culp to Gandace L Culp, tract in sw 1, 26, 60, 37..... 1 00

Margaret McCoy to W S Thomson, ne se 22, 60, 39..... 1 00

Chas C Moore et al to Fred Lawrence, ne se 32, 62, 39..... 1 00

James B Payne to Mettie M Payne, 45 feet e side lot 7, block 7, and easement in Wall Hotel bldg, Oregon..... 1 00

Nathaniel G Boyles to Manning A Hearing, s 1 nw se 29, 61, 38, Ex 4 a in se corner..... 100 00

BUGGIES

All Kinds of Buggies AND also Buggy HARNESS

C. J. FUHRMAN.

Property for Sale!

No. 2. Consists of 161 acres, about one-half mile southwest from city limits of Oregon; has a splendid new dwelling of five rooms, good barn and other outbuildings, also a brand new cement cave, 2 cisterns and water in branch usually. Plenty of fruit. Located on one of the best roads leading into the city. Price, \$4,000.

No. 6. Consists of a farm of 100 acres; good fences and plenty of water. Good house and barn and other outbuildings; located about four miles northwest of Oregon and about the same distance northeast of Forest City. This farm has plenty of fruit and is a good home. Price, \$100 per acre.

No. 9. Is a little farm of 51 acres, located one-half mile northeast of Forest City school building; has dwelling of four rooms, barn 16x24, built 1910; smoke house and chicken houses, a good well of water and two cisterns. Price, \$100 per acre.

No. 12. Is a farm of 90 acres located near Richville, 45 acres in cultivation, including grasses. Balance in timber, 20 acres hog tight and two wires around the forty acres.

No. 14. Consists of a great SWAP or SELL proposition on a 400-acre farm in Swisher county, Texas, and within 11 miles of Kriss, where there is a church and school. 275 acres in cultivation and producing fine. 2 acres in wheat and looking good. 4-room house in good condition. Barn for 8 head of work horses. Well, windmill, tank and supply tank. Fenced and cross-fenced and also a corral. All the land can be farmed. Price \$10,000. Has mortgage of \$5,000 and will trade equity for good producing property in Missouri, but would rather sell. This farm is owned by two brothers, one of whom is a minister actively in the work. The other one is so situated that he cannot move onto this farm, and hence this low price.

No. 15. A nice little farm of 20 acres, located 61 miles southeast of Oregon, and 4 miles from Forbes. Practically no waste land—and not hilly. Good 5-room house, hen house, smoke house, cave, hog sheds and barn room for 4 horses, easily arranged to hold 8. Splendid well, also spring and running water; 300 bearing apple trees, 150 budded peach trees. One-fourth mile to school, three-fourths mile to country church. Write or call if interested. It will be priced to sell.

City Property.

No. 1. Has dwelling of six rooms, besides halls and closets. Two level lots—the vacant lot being suitable for building purposes. Located 14 blocks west of court house square. Price, \$3,000.

No. 2. Is a one-story dwelling of 5 rooms, 2 closets, hall screened in porch, cement floor and good cave, with entrance from inside of porch. Dwelling in good repair inside and out. Plenty of fruit of all kinds. Barn for team, cow and hogs. Chicken house and lot. Buggy shed. Two lots in good location and cheap at \$2,750.

No. 5. Is a 1-story frame six-room house with basement, small stable and other out buildings. Plenty of cistern water. New cement walk along east side. Located in a splendid neighborhood, 2 blocks from court house square. Price \$1,000.

No. 6. Is a one-story house consisting of six rooms, wood shed and coal house. Barn, 2 splendid cisterns never dry—one lot with some fruit on same. This dwelling is situated within 2 blocks of court house and in good repair.

No. 7. Has 4 rooms and 1 closet, summer kitchen, smoke and wood house, cistern, city water, some small fruit. Is located in a splendid neighborhood, and has two level lots. See me for price. At present have two rooms in this dwelling to rent to small family.

No. 8. Good 5-room dwelling with basement. One room built one year ago. New front porch, new roof and gutter, house and roof well painted, good cistern and pump; good barn, room for 3 horses and buggy, small crib and horse lot; good chicken lot, with hen house; peaches, plums, blackberries, strawberries, cherries; four good lots, about 24 in alfalfa. Will make you a good price on this if sold soon.

I am prepared to make you a loan on your farm at 5 per cent annual interest with a reasonable commission. Or, if you have idle money I will place it for you on good security and at a good rate of interest. See me for any of above business.

Yours,

R. C. BENTON,
OREGON, MO.

Patronize Our Advertisers.